

DAVID AND GOLIATH.

1 Sam 17:38-49.

The Philistines lived along the southwestern coast of Palestine. After Saul had disowned God, it is said "there were sore wars against the Philistines all the days of Saul." The Philistines were camped in the valley of Elai near Shoboh, some ten miles from Bethlehem. The first part of the chapter relates the challenge of Goliath to the camp to enquire after his brothers and to bring them supplies, and his resolve to fight the giant.

Saul at first naturally hesitated to let a stripling fight the giant. But David had ever a winning way, and the king yielded, for no one but this young boy offered himself for the fight. "And Saul armed David with his armour,"—Or rather his "war dress," which was worn under the coat of mail. Over this a coat of mail was placed and a brass helmet put upon his head. "I have not proved them."—He took a little walk and found the armour too heavy. He could only hope to overcome the giant by agility, and besides he was not accustomed to the use of armour. It was not foolhardiness but wisdom which made David go unarmoured to meet Goliath.

"He took his staff in his hand."—The sling is a very ancient weapon as shown by the Egyptian monuments. As against a sword and spear, provided there was some part of the body unprotected by armour, it was like a revolver against a sabre. David trusted wholly in God for his victor, but he used great wisdom in his choice of a weapon. The advantage was clearly on David's side, having the skill with the sling which he did. We are told there were seven hundred left-handed men of Benjamin who could sling at a hair's breadth and not miss. It is probable David carried his staff with him to attract the attention of Goliath, and make the giant think that was the weapon with which he proposed to fight. He would conceal the sling as best he could, for had the Philistines noticed that, Goliath would have guarded his forehead. For the Philistines knew the formidable nature of the sling. And had David been without the staff they would have suspected something in his other hand knowing that the would not come out without some weapon.

Down to the ravine came the two champions, the man who bore the shield going with the giant. There was no visor to a helmet in those days, but the shields guarded from missiles. Goliath in his contempt for the ruddy boy, did not take his shield from his bearer. A pretty boy in his shepherd's dress comes to meet the famous warrior! No wonder Goliath disdained him.

"Am I a dog that thou comest to me with staff?"—The staff in his hand, a weapon which might be useful in driving away a dog. "And the Philistine cursed David by his gods."—He was angry at the insult conveyed by David's supposing he could be driven away with a stick. And if David had had no other weapon than his staff the murderous and coarse threat of Goliath would have been no empty boast.

"Thou comest to me with a sword and with a spear and with a shield."—The word translated shield means a javelin. These were the things in which the Philistines trusted for victory. David's faith was in his God. "I come to thee in the name of the Lord of Hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied."—Always and in every thing David put God first. It was as the armies of the living God that he spoke of the forces of Saul.

"This day will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand," Goliath said. "I, David says 'God.'" He considered, and it shows that was the issue, that the trial was between the gods of the Philistines and Jehovah, and David accepts this challenge as Elijah afterwards on Mt. Carmel. God will give a complete victory; not only will Goliath be killed, but the army behind him.

"And all this assembly shall know that the Lord saveth, not with sword and spear."—He is not dependent upon such weapons, nor upon force; He can give a signal victory to the weakest. God would guide the stone unerringly to the one small unguarded spot on the giant's head.

Verse 48—Then Goliath came on towards his youthful opponent. Without waiting for him, fearing it may be, that in a moment of caution the giant might take his shield David ran towards the armies of the Philistines. As he ran his motions would not be observed and even if Goliath had noticed the preparation which David was making he would not have feared. A boy like that could not use a sling so skillfully as to hit the forehead of a man in motion.

As he ran David puts the pebble in the sling, and hurling it with faith and prayer, it struck the unguarded spot, and the giant fell to the ground stunned by the blow.

But he was not dead and before the astonished Philistines could interfere, David had taken Goliath's own sword and cut off his head. No wonder the Philistines fled; it must have seemed to them that the God of Israel had worked a miracle against their champion. And Israel pursued till a great victory was won, and David's words to Goliath were proved a true prophecy.

The lesson of this thrilling story are many. No matter what the seeming power of the evil with which Israel contends, God will give the victory. Each man must do his best, using his best wisdom, but he must know that the battle is God's.

LEBANON, KY.

I was called as pastor of the First Baptist church here and took charge the first Sunday in April last. I found that the church was in a very bad condition and had been for the last four years. I found when I came here 54 orthodox Baptists and I have succeeded in the Name of Christ by adding to that number, 21. I am glad to say that the church is alive both spiritually and financially. We had a small rally July 26, and realized a neat little sum of \$67.05. We had two clubs, deacon Frank White and the writer's daughter, Miss Bessie Brown, were presidents of said clubs. Deacon White's club realized \$40.05; Miss Brown's club realized \$27.00. We have a good Sunday-school of 65, F. White, Supt. I moved my family here May 15th. My pray is that peace and harmony may reign at the coming General Association. May the great head of the church bless the great Baptist family throughout Kentucky.

C. R. Brown, Pastor.

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- South District Association, Lancaster, June 17.
- Green River Valley S. S. Convention, Central City, June 18.
- Consolidated S. S. Convention, Lexington, June 26.
- Union District S. S. Convention, Bowling Green, June 26.
- V. M. S. S. Convention, Sturgis, June 26.
- Central District S. S. Convention, Carrollton, June 26.
- Central District Association, Bardonia, July 9.
- C. R. & C. V. S. S. Convention, Gacey, July 10.
- London District S. S. Convention, Consolidated Association, Cynthiana, July 15.
- W. Ky. G. V. S. S. Convention, Bethel Schoolhouse, Hardwood, July 16.
- First District Association, Trenton, July 28.
- Green River S. S. Convention, Western Green Valley S. S. Convention, Howard Creek Association, Sadleville, July 22.
- South District S. S. Convention, Daviotown, July 23.
- Young Men's State Association, New Liberty S. S. Convention, Payotown, July 31.
- General Association, Danville, August 12.
- Liberty Association, Green River Valley Association, Mt. Pleasant District Association, Richmond, Sept. 3.
- Mt. Calvary District Association, Irvin, Sept. 3.
- Little R. & C. V. Association, Mt. Zion Callaway co. Sept. 3.
- Zion Association, Union District Association, South Union, Sept. 10.
- Liberty S. S. Convention, London District Association, Altamont, Sept. 17.
- Howard Creek S. S. Convention, Stainging Ground, Sept. 24.
- Baptist Women's Educational Convention, Franklin, Oct. 1.
- B. W. F. C. of L. R. & C. V. Association, Dawson, Oct. 15.

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WOMEN'S WORK.

Mrs. L. M. Jackson will fill the following appointments in the interest of the Baptist Women's Educational Convention:

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Harrods Creek	" 13
Green Cast. e	" 14
Goose Creek	" 15
Anchorage	" 16
Simpsonville	" 17
Junkins Run	" 18-19
Scotts Station	" 20
Rik reek	" 21
Taylorville	" 22
Bloomfield	" 23
Chaplain	" 24
Fairfield	" 25-26
Pewee Valley	" 27
Brownboro	" 28
LaGrange	" 29
Smithfield	" 30
New Castle	" 31
Quinence	August 1-3
Pleasure Ridge	" 4
Christiansburg	" 5
Bag Dad	" 6
Frankfort	" 6-7
Midway	" 8-9
Zion Hill	" 10
Georgetown	" 11
Danville	" 12-16
Atoka	" 17
Harrodsburg	" 18
Perryville	" 19
Lebanon	" 20

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